

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 11, 2002      LB 1085

CLERK:        37 ayes, 1 nay to place the house under call,  
Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The house is under call. All unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. Unexcused senators report to the Chamber. Senator Wickersham, you may start closing if you wish to. Your time is running.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: All right. Mr. President, I...well, I don't know where to start, but I know where we ought to end, and we ought to end by overriding the Governor's veto. The reason I say I don't know where to start is because I think most of the rest of you have said everything that needs to be said. This is an issue that has come to us through our process. I hope that you don't feel that the process has been unfair to you as individuals. That certainly has not been my objective, if you think I'm responsible for something you believe is unfair. We have a process. We've had this bill at three stages of deliberation plus the committee deliberations. It has changed in response to questions, concerns that we have heard from you, but it can't be changed again. I don't, as I've said, don't like it. There are parts of this that I, frankly, at one time said I would never do. Guess I'm getting too pragmatic in my old age because now I will because I have to. And as we get older and as we get more experienced I think we do occasionally begin to understand that we have to do things that we don't want to do and we don't like to do because as we get older and others give us responsibility, that's what our constituents did, they gave us responsibility to act for them, to use the information we had at hand, to use our experience, limited or long, to use our own sense of personal integrity and what's right to make decisions for them. We could make decisions for them that would hurt them a lot more than this bill. This bill for most of our constituents will mean very little out of their pocket. The kind of cuts that we did yesterday will mean money out of some of their pockets. The kind of cuts that we did yesterday for others will mean that they do not receive necessary government services. We could do more of that, but that's not responsible. I've had...I need to make one technical comment because I made a commitment to do that. There is a phrase in the bill. You'll